Revision in Price of Betamethasone and its Salts

1130. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) when was the price of Betamethasone and its salts revised and on what basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that BICP recommendation for reduction in price has not been implemented and that they have decided to uphold the Murthy Committee report;

(c) what happened to 50 per cent benefit recommended by the BICP;

(d) whether it is a fact that the company has been given a latent benefit of crores of rupees;

(e) whether any complaint against the bureaucrats getting lucrative benefits from this company including agency for his relatives has been received; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The price of Betamethasone & its salts were revised on 9th October, 1991 due to impact of change of exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies as follows :—

(Rupees per gm.)

		Previous price	Revised price
1	Betamethasone Alcohol	144.19	149.42
2	Betamethasone Diphosphate	144.58	149.21
3	Betamethasone Valerate	136.58	143.31

(b) The BICP submitted its report on bulk drug Betamethasone and its salts in 1990. After examining the cost-cum technical study report of BICP in this Ministry, the same prices as were notified in 1989 were approved.

(c) The benefit of 50% reduction in cost, recommended by the BICP was not considered by this Ministry while revising the price of Betamethasone and its salts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No such complaint has been received.

(f) Does not arise.

Disposing off Holdings in India by Union Carbide

1131. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Carbide responsible for Bhopal Gas disaster are disposing off their holdings in India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government have taken to stop the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) is holding 50.9% shares in Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) and as per the information furnished by a firm of Solicitors, 16,585,000 shares have been pledged to the Bhopal Hospital Trust to facilitate construction of the building and operation of an hospital for gas victims in Bhopal, which, under the directions of the Supreme Court in its Order dt. 31-10-1991, has to be finalised by UCC/UCIL.

(c) As per available information, the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal has issued summons to the nine accused including Union Carbide Corporation, USA for appearance in the Court in the criminal case filed against them. The Company having failed to appear, the Court has,

inter-alia ordered attachment of all the movable and immovable properties of Union Corporation in India including attachment of Union Carbide Corporation's property worth 50.9% in Union Carbide India Limited.

Submission of Price Lists Under DPCO, 1987

1132. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the small scale and organised sector units are required to furnish price list in Form-5 and Form-5A of DPCO, 1987 to the Government;

(b) what are the names and addresses of the companies who have complied with this provision and submitted complete price lists in the prescribed forms upto and inclusive of the year 1991-92;

(c) what are the names and addresses of the companies which are yet to furnish the price lists for the past four years, year-wise; and

(d) what action has been taken against each of the defaulters and is it a fact that the provisions of the order are not being implemented on account of the producers and bureaucrats tie up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The number of companies in the organised sector is about 250 and in the small scale sector about 8000. The number of formulations in large variety of pack sizes, based on both scheduled and non-scheduled bulk drugs, is therefore enormous. The overall compliance by the companies in regard to furnishing of information under these forms as per provisions of DPCO, 1987 has not been very satisfactory. However, efforts are on to increase the compliance and reminders have been/are being sent to a large number of companies especially those with reported large turnover.

Suitable action would be taken against persistent defaulters.

Approving the price of Daonil Tablets

1133. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 210 given in Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 1991 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Rs. 15.62 for 10×10 tables of Daonil was approved by Government before the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(b) if so, by when and if not, what was the approved price and when was it implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a 2.5 times increase in the price after the drug was decontrolled;

(d) whether this drug does not satisfy any of the five criteria laid down by the Kelkar Committee for decontrol of drugs and yet it has been decontrolled;

(e) if so, under what circumstances;

(f) whether it is a fact that it was committed in the House that the drug would be included under price control but no action have been taken to discharge the commitment; and

(g) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, the price for 10×10 tab. of Daonil was fixed at Rs. 5.98 per pack under DPCO, 1979 i.e. prior to DPCO, 1987. Under DPCO, 1987 its price was revised to Rs. 8.88.

(c) to (e) after the drug was decontrolled, the price of its formulation increased. Glybenclamide has been price decontrolled on the specific recommendations made by the Kelkar Committee in its supplementary report.